one year from date of issue or renewal. The change contemplated would alter the situation only very gradually, but it would bring the licensing provisions in the State into line with those in other countries.

The member then dealt with the remittance of fees by *chellans*. It was difficult and expensive to procure them in planting districts, while the planters had daily dealings with the local Post Offices where money orders might be obtained readily. In the case of the planting communities, money orders should continue to be acceptable.

The question of decentralisation of the issue and renewal of motor licenses had been under consideration at intervals for some years. Government should solve the question at as early a date as possible.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Wright. As regards the delay in the issue of licenses, as you have mentioned in your representation, a rule is being proposed by which a license instead of being valid for the current Malabar year would be hereafter valid for one year from the date of issue. That would tend to minimise delay, because all the licenses will not come up for renewal simultaneously.

Your second point is that there is difficulty in remitting money by *chellans*. I understand there is no definite rule that the payments should be by means of *chellans* alone. As a matter of fact, it is a matter of expediency to use the *chellan*. In the first place, money orders sent to the Police Commissioner reach him sometimes while he is in camp and that causes very great inconvenience to him. Secondly, if actual cash comes in, there will be possibility of misappropriation. On these two grounds, it is desirable to remit money as far as possible by means of *chellans*. Anyhow, since you have raised that point, Government will consider it.

19. Tolls.

MR. E. T. C. FARR (*South Travancore Planters' Association*) spoke about the need for the early abolition of tolls in respect of all vehicles and for the substitution of petrol tax or vehicular taxation in lieu thereof. He urged the following reasons in support of his request :—

(i) Free circulation of vehicles of all description and, in the case of motor vehicles, rapid transport were most important factors for the development of road communications.

(ii) The motor car was becoming an essential element in the general improvement of the amenities of life not only in towns but also in villages.

(iii) The number of motor buses, lorries and cars had more than doubled itself in the last three years.

(iv) The method of collecting tolls was quite out of date and the practice had been abolished in most foreign countries and in nearly all the Provinces of India, except in the case of bridges, ferries or new roads.

(v) The system of farming or auctioning the right to collect tolls meant that a percentage of the money realised, often as much as twenty-five per cent. or more, went to the contractor and not to the Government.

(vi) It was believed that, in some districts and municipalities, only a small proportion of the net income derived from tolls was spent on the road.

The member in conclusion recalled the promise made on a previous occasion that, when the abolition of tolls came into force in British India, Travancore would follow suit. It appeared that a Bill for the abolition of tolls introduced in the Madras Legislative Council would soon be passed into law.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Farr. This question, as you said, has been before the public and the Government for some time now. You are aware that the Madras Government are trying to introduce legislation in the Madras Legislative Council, whereby a vehicle tax is substituted for the tolls now levied. That is a question which is also under the consideration of the Government and they are taking preliminary action and are investigating this problem of substituting for tolls some other kinds of taxation which would supply the funds that this toll system now supplies for the maintenance of roads and bridges. The matter is under investigation now.

20. Some reflections and suggestions on the administration of the Judicial and Police Departments.

MR. NARAYANARU KRISHNARU (*Jenmies, Trivandrum Division, Group II*) who spoke in Malayalam, said that the terms of reference to the Law's Delays Commissioner were inadequate. The Commissioner should be empowered to examine, and record the evidence of, the litigant public. The practical working of the several branches of each and every civil court in the State should be studied very closely by the Commissioner and remedies prescribed for the difficulties experienced by the litigants from day to day.

Unregistered documents deposited in courts were often found to have been tampered with. It should therefore be made a rule that attested copies alone need ordinarily be deposited.

In the case of direct remittances to the court, the Head clerk should sign, for the party concerned, a detailed account of the remittances. That would facilitate the preparation of the decree and prevent double remittances.

In the case of *jenmam* lands, the *jenmies'* dues had priority after Government dues. No registered certificate should therefore be necessary for the auction notification for *jenmies'* dues.

The certificates issued by Vakils on receipt of fees were disappearing from courts. A small fee should be levied thereon.